

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant

PIN	3900	COUNTY	Multiple Counties
APPLICANT	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$264,748
PROJECT TITLE	Draft Russian River Watershed Management Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$530,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Develop an effective Watershed Management Plan for the Russian River Watershed. The Draft WMP will build off of the watershed assessment to identify where watershed restoration and protection opportunities exist and evaluate appropriate management measures.

WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.

Score: 9

Comment: The work plan lacks sufficient detail for implementation. Budget lacks supporting information. The proposed project is a portion of a larger ACOE project. The applicant does not make it clear in the work plan or elsewhere in the application exactly how this project is coordinated with USACE efforts. It is difficult to tell what components are carried out by USACE and the applicant.

DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The region is well-delineated; however, the applicant does not define the relationship of the management area to water quality of an ASBS. Description of water quality is limited to sediment and "other pollutants". Additionally, the applicant does not discuss the benefits of managing regionally as opposed to smaller local efforts. The area is critical habitat for three species of anadromous fish.

OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: The objectives are listed, but need further explanation. In addition, the process for determining plan objectives is not discussed.

INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 6

Comment: Many water management strategies are noted, but not all strategies in the Guidelines are mentioned. There is a brief description of processes to determine strategies but integration is not addressed. The technical process for determining management measures is a screening approach with yet to be devised criteria. The proposal does not demonstrate an understanding of how multiple water management strategies could work together to produce a regional benefit to water management.

IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: There is little discussion of plan implementation beyond development and no conceptual schedule or who would implement after the planning process. While it is clear that this proposal is part of a larger USACE project, it is unclear how the two will be coordinated and which party has responsibility.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: The proposed ICWMP would have significant benefits for the Russian River watershed, but it does not make a good case of how these would result in benefits for nearby ASBS. There is no mention of CEQA in the schedule or budget. A more detailed discussion regarding CEQA requirements would have resulted in a higher score.

DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The applicant cites a watershed assessment by the USACE as supplying necessary data for planning; however the discussion is brief and general. Additional points would have been awarded if there was more detailed explanation of what data is needed for planning and how those needs are met or will be met by the USACE assessment.

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DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The applicant will be using the Russian River Information System (RRIIS) for their database. The proposal supports good dissemination of information to the public via the Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC) website and RRIIS. The proposal could have scored higher if Statewide data needs were addressed.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: Stakeholder involvement is achieved through the RRWC efforts, which consist of public meetings and a process for providing input through the RRWC. The proposal also addresses environmental justice and states that half of the current members on the RRWC are from disadvantaged communities. The applicant states there will be multiple opportunities for public outreach, but fails to discuss the specifics of it.

DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposal indicates Mendocino County is disadvantaged and that many members of the RRWC are residents. The applicant indicates that they will do outreach during the planning process to make sure they are part of the decision making process. The applicant does not document the water quality/quantity needs of the disadvantaged communities.

RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 3

Comment: The proposal mentions a number of local planning efforts and that the planning will integrate those efforts where feasible. The application does not directly address the connection between local planning documents and the IRWMP.

AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: The proposal identifies relevant local, State, and Federal agencies that will be involved in coordination efforts.

TOTAL SCORE: 64